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19 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion of Open Budget with Ralph Preston,
Chief Counsel of the House Appropriations Committee

1. Messrs. Clarke, [redacted] met with Mr. 25X1
Preston on 19 July to brief him on Senator McClellan's request
for Mr. Colby's views on disclosing budget figures for the National
Intelligence Program in the Senate Appropriations Committee Report
on the DOD FY 1974 Appropriations Bill. Mr. Preston said he was
aware of the pressures in the Senate for such disclosures but
relaxation of current procedures on the disclosure of intelligence
figures would lead inevitably to further erosion and result in
broader debate about and wide knowledge of intelligence programs.
He appeared to accept the necessity of disclosing the total figures
for the NIP, but was opposed to disclosure of the budget figures
for CIA, DIA, NSA, and the three services, even if this were done
by Senator McClellan at his own discretion on a confidential basis
with selected members of Congress. He said he would discuss
the subject with Mr. Mahon but was confident he was reflecting the
latter's views.

2. General Allen and [redacted] have been briefed on this 25X1
meeting.



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